

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AT

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 5, 2000

IN RE:

**CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
OF THE VOLUNTEER STATE, LLC PETITION FOR
APPROVAL OF A VOLUNTARILY NEGOTIATED
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

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**DOCKET NO.
00-00540**

**ORDER APPROVING VOLUNTARILY NEGOTIATED
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") upon the Petition of Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State, LLC for approval of a voluntarily negotiated Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement") by and between Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State, LLC and US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. The Petition for approval of the Agreement came before the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251-252.

The Agreement was considered at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on August 29, 2000, in Nashville, Tennessee before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director H. Lynn Greer, Jr., and Director Melvin J. Malone. The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 *et seq.* Based upon the Petition, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251-252, the Directors unanimously approved the Agreement and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Agreement is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State, LLC service area;

2) The Agreement is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto;

3) No party has sought intervention in this docket;

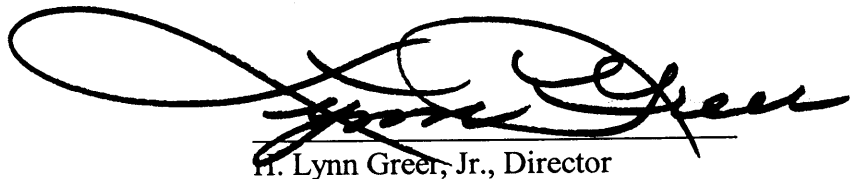
4) The approval of the Agreement is consistent with previous Authority decisions and orders; and

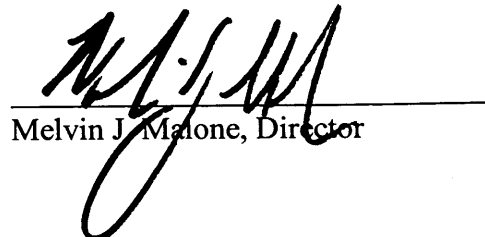
5) The Agreement is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251-252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 *et seq.*

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Interconnection Agreement voluntarily negotiated by and between Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State, LLC and US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary